SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the specification as follows:

Substitute the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3, with the following:

-- The present application is related to co-pending U.S. patent application Serial No. 10/611,575 ~~Ser. No.~~ _____, Attorney Docket No. MS1-1526, entitled "Transport System for Instant Messaging," by John Holmes, David Michael Miller, and Walter vonKoch, which is filed concurrently herewith, assigned to the assignee of the present application, and incorporated herein by reference for all that it teaches and discloses. --

Substitute the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 24, with the following:

-- In general, the transport protocol stack 120 and the transport API 122 provide means for client (1) 102 to communicate with client (2) 104 over the network 106 and/or over the direct connection 108 in a peer-to-peer fashion. The transport protocol stack 120 establishes necessary connections for communicating instant messaging data, including data related to the features 114 and the object store 116. Exemplary implementations of the transport protocol stack 120 and transport API 122 are described in further detail in co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/611,575 ~~Serial No.~~ _____, entitled "Transport System for Instant Messaging." --